

Introduced by Senator McPherson

March 6, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14—Relative to arthritis awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 14, as introduced, McPherson. Arthritis awareness.

This measure would recognize the need to create and foster a statewide arthritis awareness program, focusing on medically underserved, ethnically diverse communities, and to work to adequately fund the program in 2004.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Arthritis encompasses more than 100 diseases and  
2 conditions that affect joints and connective tissues, such as  
3 osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, gout, lupus, and  
4 Lyme Disease; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease  
6 Control and Prevention (CDC), arthritis is the leading cause of  
7 disability in the United States, significantly affecting the quality  
8 of life for more than 70 million Americans who experience its  
9 painful symptoms; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the State Department of Health  
11 Services' California Arthritis Atlas, a 2002 report on the impact  
12 of arthritis statewide, more than 6.5 million California adults,  
13 constituting 27 percent of the population, have arthritis; and

14 WHEREAS, Arthritis affects people in all age groups, including  
15 as many as 285,000 children; and

1 WHEREAS, A disproportionate number of older Californians,  
2 or an estimated 46 percent of those 45 years of age and older, have  
3 arthritis or experience chronic joint symptoms; and

4 WHEREAS, Arthritis is not necessarily an inevitable part of the  
5 aging process. Effective methods exist to prevent, delay the onset  
6 of, and manage the symptoms of the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services  
8 concluded in its 2002 California Arthritis Atlas that arthritis costs  
9 the California economy an estimated \$32 billion annually in  
10 medical expenses and lost wages; and

11 WHEREAS, Reports from the CDC and agencies in California  
12 indicate that disability is more severe in underserved populations  
13 that lack access to early diagnosis and treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, Existing public information and programs about  
15 arthritis in California remain inadequately disseminated and  
16 insufficient in addressing the needs of specific diverse populations  
17 and other underserved groups; and

18 WHEREAS, Educating the public and the health care  
19 community throughout the state about this devastating disease is  
20 of paramount importance and is in every respect in the public  
21 interest and to the benefit of all residents of the State of California;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The California Arthritis Foundation chapters, in  
24 partnership with other agencies throughout the state, have led the  
25 development of a public health strategy, the National Arthritis  
26 Action Plan, to respond to this challenge; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the  
29 need to create and foster a statewide program, in coordination with  
30 the California Arthritis Foundation chapters, that emphasizes a  
31 multiethnic approach, promotes public awareness, and increases  
32 knowledge about the causes of arthritis, the importance of early  
33 diagnosis and appropriate management, effective prevention  
34 strategies, and pain prevention and management; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the need to work in  
36 2004 to adequately fund the statewide program, so as to allow for  
37 the development and dissemination to patients, health  
38 professionals, and the public, of educational materials,  
39 information on research results, available services, and strategies  
40 for prevention and control, and for the adaptation of this material



- 1 to the appropriate languages and reading levels of medically
- 2 underserved, ethnically diverse communities; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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